

Lesson 6-3

The Gospel of John



The Gospel of John

✦ What is the gospel of John?

John is a distinct gospel with a spiritual emphasis

✦ What is the storyteller's purpose?

"...so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20.31)

Characteristics of John's Gospel

✦ John is distinct from the other gospels.

- Most scholars do not see John as dependent on the SGs
- John's themes and events are distinct
- John's order and structure are distinct

✦ John presents a particularly rich Christology

- *Christology* is concerned with the messianic nature of Jesus
 - The divine nature of Jesus
 - Jesus and salvation
- John purposefully concentrates on Jesus as the heavenly revelation of ultimate truth.
- John purposefully emphasizes the divine, cosmic, and preeminent status of Jesus.

Prologue: Hymn to the Logos

✦ The “Hymn to the *Logos*” echoes Genesis

- Jesus is the “Word” (i.e., λόγος, *logos*)
- Jesus is “Light”

✦ What is *Logos*? (“Word”)

- Greek Tradition: associated with the divine reason/intelligence that brings order to chaos and creates the universe
- Hebrew Tradition: associated with divine/cosmic wisdom
 - Existing before creation
 - The architect at God's side during creation
 - An agent of revelation to the faithful

✦ In John's gospel, *Logos* takes on human nature

Prologue: Hymn to the Logos

✦ In other words: Logos = Christ = Wisdom = Word

- Christ is superior to creation, exists before creation, and was with God prior to creation.
- “and the word was with God, and the word *was* God” (Joh 1.1)
- Christ not only speaks God’s word, Christ *is* the Word of God.

✦ The seven “I am” statements of Jesus also connect Jesus to God’s wisdom

- “I AM” - God’s revelation to Moses
- Jesus echoes the “I AM” of the Old Testament

The “I am” Statement of Jesus

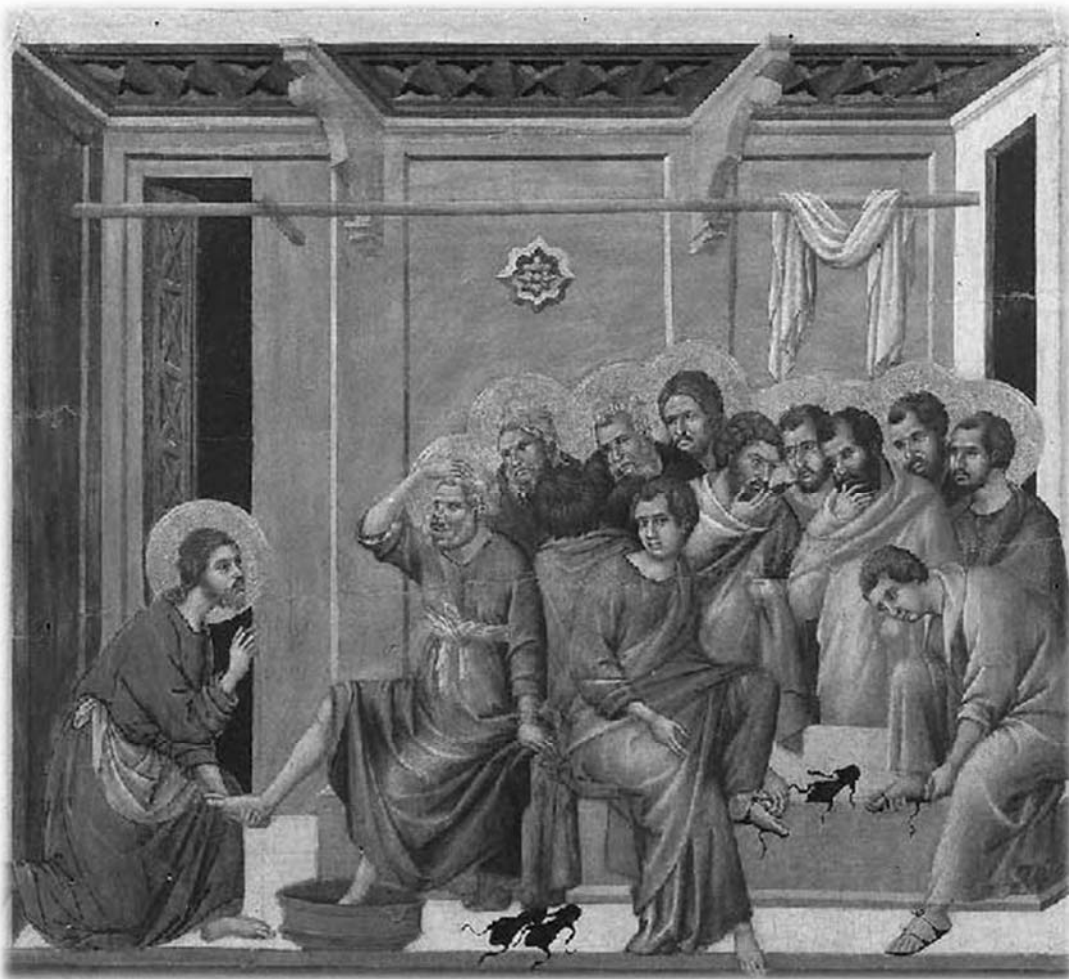
I AM	Scripture
I am the bread of life	John 6.48
I am the light of the world	John 8.12
I am the door	John 10.9
I am the good shepherd	John 10.11
I am the resurrection and the life	John 11.25
I am the way, the truth, and the life	John 14.6
I am the true vine	John 15.1

The Book of Signs

- ✦ John structures the public ministry of Jesus around seven “signs,” or miracles that illustrate the supernatural power and divinity of Jesus.
 - Miracle at Cana (water into wine)
 - Cures nobleman’s dying son
 - Heals a sick man at the pool by the Sheep Gate
 - Feeds the 5000
 - Walks on water
 - Restores sight to a blind man
 - Raises Lazarus from the dead
- ✦ These *signs* are connected to and interwoven with Jesus’ sermons about his nature.

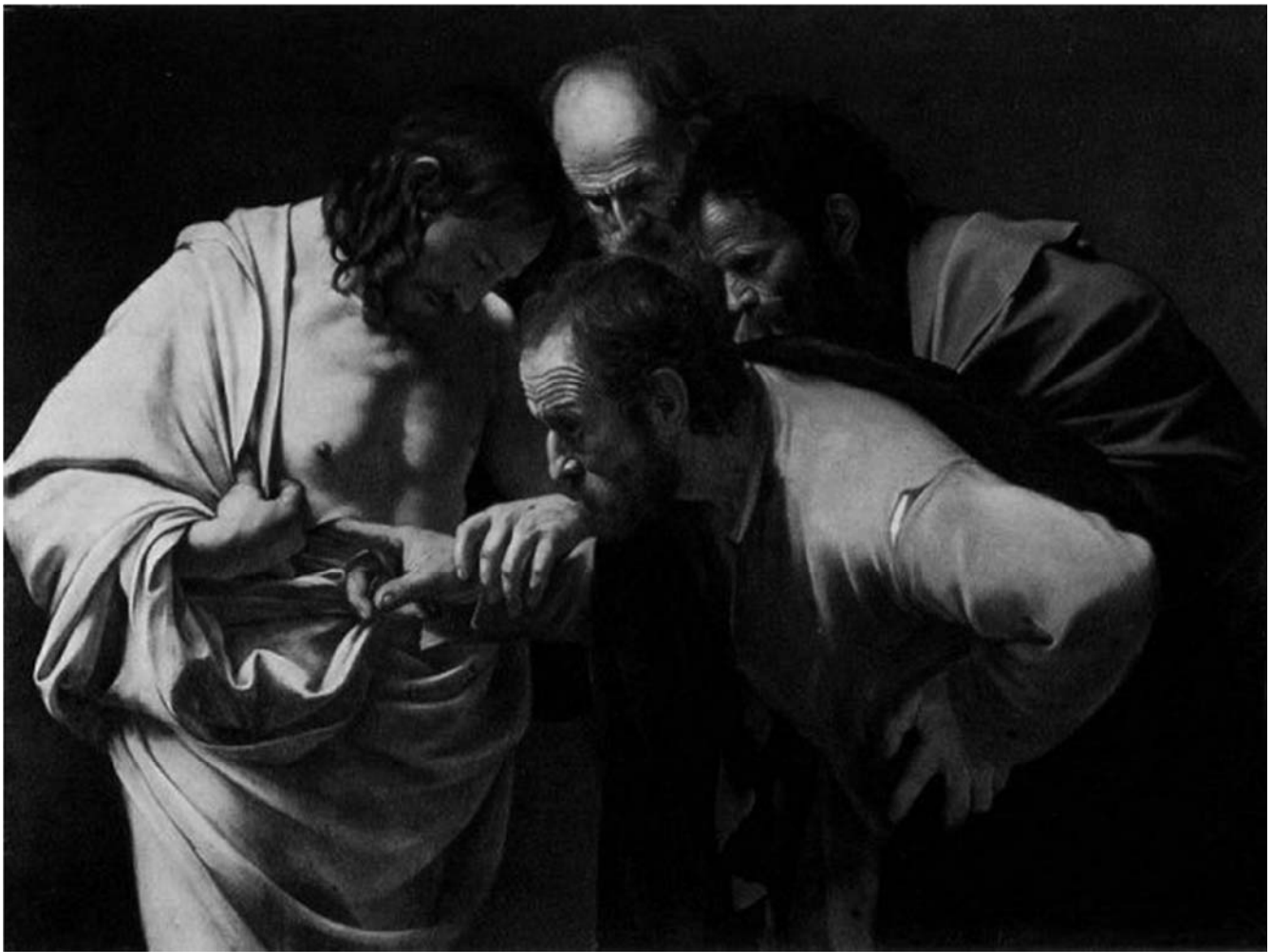
The Book of Glory

- ✦ John’s distinct interpretation of the Passion.
 - John gives the most theological portrait of the Christ’s death and resurrection.
 - High Christology and Real Humanity in John’s Gospel
 - Emphasizing Jesus’ authority, Jesus is depicted in total control.
 - Emphasizing Jesus’ divinity, John stresses that Jesus *chooses* not to use his divine power to save himself on the cross.
 - Yet John also portrays the servanthood and humanity of Jesus
 - John is careful to show that the preeminent Christ really was a human who suffered and died on the cross.
- ❖ John’s Christology: The Word Became Flesh



Epilogue

- ✦ Post-resurrection Appearances in the Region of Galilee
- ✦ Jesus has breakfast with his disciples (Jesus really had risen)
- ✦ John's gospel emphasizes that the Holy Spirit will remain among his earthly disciples
- ✦ Jesus emphasizes that "loving Jesus" means caring for his people.



John's Incarnate Theology

